

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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For Immediate Release
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Motorcycle Fatalities

The Poulsbo Detachment of the Washington State Patrol responded to a motorcycle fatality collision at 6:54 a.m. yesterday morning, July 19, 2006 on SR 16 just east of Gorst. 47 year old Cindy Morrissey of Port Orchard was traveling westbound on SR-16, approaching congested traffic. While attempting to avoid colliding with vehicles ahead, Morrissey lost control, laid the motorcycle down and was ejected from the motorcycle. Morrissey was transported to Harborview Medical Center where she died at 9:39 p.m. last night.

The Washington State Patrol wants to remind motorcycle operators that the majority of motorcycle fatality collisions occur on dry roads, during daylight hours in the spring and summer months. The leading contributing factors to motorcycle fatalities are lane errors, speed, alcohol and inattention. One third of motorcycle fatalities involve an operator who is not properly endorsed or licensed. In this case, Morrissey did have a motorcycle license endorsement, and alcohol is not believed to be involved.

Year to date, law enforcement officers across the state have investigated 32 fatality collisions involving motorcycles.

The Washington State Patrol has begun a Public Orientated Public Safety Project (POPS) working with stake holders such as Dept. of Licensing, WA Traffic Safety Commission and Motorcycle Safety Education Groups, to combine efforts to reduce motorcycle fatalities. One goal of the POPS project is to educate the motorcycle operators on the leading cause of fatality and injury collisions.

Troopers have taken a zero tolerance enforcement policy on collision causing moving violations, DUI, and license violations. Responsible riders are encouraged to take beginner and advanced motorcycle safety class in an effort to improve personal safety and ensure proper motorcycle endorsement.

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